

1126 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5261
202-225-3719 FAX



TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

February 5, 2018

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As a Member of Congress, I am deeply concerned about the current state of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). I implore you to provide robust funding to the BOP in your Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, to ensure that Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) can keep federal prisons fully staffed and safe for all individuals.

As the largest law enforcement component in the DOJ, the BOP plays a vital role in maintaining order and reducing crime. Correction officers in our nation's federal prisons are responsible for ensuring the administration of justice, but also the personal safety and security of staff, inmates, and the public. They respond daily to issues related to gangs, violence, mental illness, sexual assault, and drugs. Even under ideal conditions, it is a tough and trying job.

Just as an overcrowded prison is a dangerous prison, so is an understaffed prison. Currently, our federal prisons are operating well below recommended staffing levels. It is my understanding the DOJ wants to eliminate roughly 6,000 positions from the BOP. Yet the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) and Federal Satellite Low (FSL) at Elkton—a facility that employs many of my constituents just south of my Congressional district—is already understaffed by thirty positions. Cutting staff at FCI/FSL Elkton even more would make the institution unsafe for corrections officers and inmates alike. I have a responsibility to speak out against these proposed cuts and other changes that undermine the BOP's effectiveness and endanger lives.

The corrections officers at FCI/FSL Elkton and all BOP institutions deserve better than to have a hard job made even harder through understaffing, overcrowding, and inadequate funding. You have publicly stated your commitment to stand up for law enforcement and support them in their work. I ask that funding for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Fiscal Year 2019 honor and reflect this pledge of support. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

197 WEST MARKET STREET, SUITE 100
WARREN, OH 44481
330-373-0074
330-373-0098 FAX

241 WEST FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 311
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503
330-740-0193
330-740-0182 FAX

1030 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE
AKRON, OH 44310
330-630-7311
330-630-7314 FAX